Pyne, Robert Allan
44

[Minister of Education, Toronto]

Oct. 1916 - May 1917

(18)

756

October 13th, 1916

Hon. Dr. R. A. Pyne,

Executive Council of Ontario.

Dear Dr. Pyne:

I am afraid that our regulations are such that it would be impossible for Mr. Ryan to be admitted as a student in Medicine lacking the two subjects Latin and French. A rule has been laid down which is rigidly adhered to by the Faculty of Medicine that Matriculation must be completed before entering on its study. We have had this agreement with McGill for several years. If I am not mistaken this standing is required also by the Medical Council. As far as I am aware the Medical Faculty makes no exception in this respect.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Pyne, Robert Allan

[Minister of Education, Toronto]

Oct 1916 - May 1917

750

ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TORONTO. January 15th, 1917.

Dear Dr. Falconer :

I enclose you a copy of a printed document respecting the course in medicine, which has been sent to the Prime Minister by Mr. W. F. Nickle, M.P.. In case you have not received a copy of the statement, I send it to you for such action as is deemed advisable.

Yours very truly,

R. A. Pyne

Minister of Education.

President Falconer, C.M.G.,
University of Toronto.
TORONTO.

749

ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TORONTO. January 17th, 1917.

Dear Dr. Falconer :

I have yours of the 16th instant in reference to the medical course. Will you be king enough to return to me the letter, or memorandum, from Mr. W. F. Nickle, M.P., which went to you with the memorial from Queen's?

Yours sincerely,

R. H. Lyne

Minister of Education.

President R. A. Falconer, C.M.G., LL.D.,
University of Toronto,
TORONTO.

February 16th, 1917

The Honourable R. A. Pyne,

Minister of Education.

Dear Dr. Pyne:

I am forwarding to you herewith copies of two memoranda, one being the reply of our Board of Governors and Senate to the Memorandum of the Senate of Queen's University regarding the six years' course in Medicine, and the other our answer to the suggestion that has been made to close the University of Toronto during the next academic year.

Yours sincerely,

President.

751

January 16th, 1917

Dr. R. A. Pyne,

Minister of Education,

Toronto.

Dear Dr. Pyne:

The memorandum from the Senate of Queen's University which you enclosed was also sent to me and to every member of the Board of Governors. I referred it to the meeting of the Board last week and also to the meeting of the Senate on Friday. A Committee of the Senate has been appointed to draw up a statement of the reasons that induced the University to take action.

For your own information, which perhaps also you might communicate to the Premier, I may say that Dean Connell, who I presume is responsible for this memorandum, is strangely in error in the first paragraph. He says that "the proposed action has been decided upon after conference between the two universities of Toronto and McGill, but apparently without reference to others equally interested in medical education in Canada". In the minutes of the Third Conference of Canadian Universities held in McGill University last May among others present was Dean Connell as one of the two representatives of Queen's University, and on page 4 of the minutes it is stated that "Dean Clarke presented the report of the Committee on Medical Education, concluding with the recommendation that the Conference express its approval of the adoption by Canadian Medical

Schools of a six years' medical course as a minimum, and that the Committee be continued for the purpose of drafting a tentative course of study. This recommendation was unanimously approved".

"It was also resolved to transmit the above resolution to the several Provincial Medical Boards throughout the Dominion."

You will therefore see that the first paragraph of the Queen's memorandum is incorrect.

Further, the University of Manitoba gave notice in its Calendar of last year that it was introducing the six years' course. Dean Clarke also has had correspondence with Dean Connell, and apparently they were willing to take action.

I must say, however, that the University of Toronto has been closely associated with McGill for several years in the matter of medical education. We have had reciprocity between these two universities, which has not existed between either of us and Queen's. This proposal was long discussed between the two universities, but we have found that the standards of Queen's have in medicine not been quite the same as our own.

In the memorandum also the details of the proposals are printed under heading (5). These evidently were taken from a private letter from Dean Clarke to Dean Connell, for they have not yet been finally passed upon by our Senate.

The real reason for the extension is the pressure that comes on all sides for more clinical work in the Hospitals, and also for a better scientific grounding. It is not as they say in their report that the preliminary sciences are the more important. Unquestionably

we have not had enough time for these, but as I look back over the discussion the pressure has always come from the clinical men and the extension of the course will enable us to do more practical training.

As to the necessity for medical men, a little calculation would show Dean Connell that if any diminution takes place owing to the increase in the length of the course it will not affect the number for at least five years from 1918. If the Western Universities continue to develop their medical schools as they have been doing by that time there will not be much demand for Ontario students in the West, and as you are aware it is only the demand from the West that has already prevented Ontario from being overcrowded with graduates from our three medical schools.

Finally, with regard to expense, I have no doubt that the fee for the first or pre-medical year will be less than the fee for the regular years in Medicine. Indeed it is altogether probable that this year may be taken in one or two of the larger Collegiates by students before they come to the University. It will depend upon their scientific equipment.

I am under the impression that Mr. Justice Hodgins is in favour of the lengthening of the course, but probably he will give no expression of this until his report is published.

Yours sincerely,

President.

May 15th, 1917

Hon. R. A. Pyne, LL.D.,

Minister of Education, Toronto.

Dear Dr. Pyne:

As I informed you in a letter written to the Deputy Minister of Education on May 8th I submitted his letter of May 5th to the Board of Governors at a meeting which was held on May 10th. The matter was considered by the Board of such importance that they appointed the Chairman and myself to discuss ~~the matter~~ it with you personally in order that the position of the Board might be placed before you as clearly as possible.

Will you allow me now to make in writing a statement of the case as Sir Edmund Walker and I presented it to you this morning? Several weeks ago an extract was sent to me from a Report made by the Superintendent to the Minister of Education on "The Condition and Needs of the Faculty of Education at the University of Toronto". Along with this went two ~~recommendations~~ statements: (1) That with a view to placing the Faculty in a more efficient condition the Minister was willing to secure the consent of the Cabinet to an increase of $5000 being made by the Board of Governors in their general estimates for the maintenance of the Faculty of Education, the purpose being to provide a larger teaching staff. (2) ~~It was recognised~~ That if this teaching staff is to do its work in a satisfactory way additions must be made to the building accommodation of the Faculty of Education.

Each of these matters was referred to a Committee of the Board of Governors; the one committee being appointed to consider the suggestions for improving the curriculum in the Faculty of Education, and the other to the regular Property Committee. Already steps have been taken by the Property Committee to secure estimates on a partial or complete extension of the buildings. The Committee on the curriculum, however, has not yet had time to consider all that is involved in the proposed reorganisation of the Faculty of Education.

The Board of Governors are therefore of opinion that it is inadvisable to announce at present any change in the curriculum of the Faculty of Education and especially the extension of the session ~~till~~ to the middle of June next year. They do not take the view that such extension as you refer to may not prove to be feasible, but they regard the present time as inopportune for making a change and for the following reasons:

(1) In all the other Faculties of the University any changes that have been made since the war have been in the direction of shortening the session in order that the students might be set free as far as possible to do non-academic work ~~in the direction of~~ for national service.

(2) The Governors before deciding upon lengthening the session wish to have time to consider the various questions raised in the Superintendent's Report in order that when they take action with the view to improving the conditions of teaching in the Faculty they may do so after full consideration.

(3) They are doubtful whether the mere extension of the term by a few weeks even with an increased staff would result in such immediate

educational advantage to the Schools of the Province as to outweigh the disadvantages of extension at the present time.

(4) The present staff is carrying a very heavy load and to add three weeks more of teaching at this time when war conditions have increased the burdens of everyone would be to ask more of them than is right.

Finally, it must be borne in mind that if the term is lengthened at this time and if it does not approve itself to the public as being opportune it will be the Board of Governors who will have to shoulder the blame.

At the same time the Board of Governors ~~desires~~ wish to assure you that they are in fullest accord with your desire to increase the efficiency of the Faculty of Education that it may maintain high rank, take its place alongside the other Faculties of the University, and may attract an increasing number of graduates of the Universities to become teachers in the schools of the Province.

Yours sincerely,

President.

720

May 21st, 1917

Hon. R. A. Pyne, LL.D.,

Minister of Education,

Toronto.

Dear Dr. Pyne:

I have your letter of May 19th and will lay it before the Board of Governors at a meeting which will probatly be held on May 28th.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.